

Computing with Categories

Saul Youssef

Center for Computational Science

Boston University

April 2001

Sets

Preorders

Graphs

Finite State Machines

Monoids

Groups

Vector Spaces

Metric Spaces

Measure Space

Topological Space

Manifolds

Lie Groups

Fiber Bundles

◦
◦
◦

Amazingly, these all have a rich common structure. They are all **Categories**.

A category consists of

(a) A collection of **objects**.

(b) For each pair A, B of objects, a set **$\text{Hom}(A, B)$** of **morphisms**.

(c) An associative rule for composing morphisms

$$\circ: \text{Hom}(A, B) \times \text{Hom}(B, C) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(A, C)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{g} & C \\ & \searrow & \text{g} \circ \text{f} & \nearrow & \\ & & & & \end{array}$$

(d) An identity morphism $A \xrightarrow{i_A} A$ for each object, such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ \text{\textcolor{red}{\curvearrowright}} i_A & & \text{\textcolor{red}{\curvearrowright}} i_B \end{array} \quad \text{"commutes" for any } f.$$

..... functions

..... monotonic functions

..... graph morphisms

..... automata morphisms

..... monoid morphisms

..... group homomorphisms

..... linear maps

..... contraction mappings

..... measure morphisms

..... continuous functions

..... smooth functions

..... smooth group homomorphisms

..... bundle morphisms

-
-
-

$$A \xleftarrow{\alpha} A \times B \xrightarrow{\beta} B$$

cartesian product
group direct product
vector space product
⋮

$$A \xrightarrow{\alpha} A \oplus B \xleftarrow{\beta} B$$

disjoint union
group direct sum
vector space product
⋮

$$A \xrightarrow{\text{monic}} X$$

Subset
subgroup
subspace of a vector space
⋮

$$A \xleftarrow{\text{epic}} X$$

equivalence classes
quotient groups
quotient topologies
⋮

$$1 \xrightarrow{x} X \text{ "element of } X"$$

An element of a set is a **member** of the set.

An element of a graph is a **loop** in the graph.

An element of an automaton is a **fixed point**.

An element of a fiber bundle is a **section**.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{s} & E \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & X & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \downarrow m \\ \end{array}$$

A **Functor** from category C to category C' consists of

(a) A map (\mathcal{F}) from the objects of C to the objects of C' .

(b) For each pair of objects A, B , a map

$$\mathcal{F}: \text{Hom}_C(A, B) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{C'}(\mathcal{F}A, \mathcal{F}B)$$

preserving identities and composition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} B & \xrightarrow{g} C \\ & \searrow & \nearrow \\ & g \circ f & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}A & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}f} \mathcal{F}B & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}g} \mathcal{F}C \\ & \searrow & \nearrow \\ & \mathcal{F}(g \circ f) & \end{array}$$

examples:

\mathcal{P}

Power set

V^*

Dual of a vector space

$T_x M$

Tangent space of a manifold

π_x

Homotopy

Second Quantization

Λ^*

cohomology functor

Functors often come in **Adjoint** pairs

$$\mathcal{L} : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}'$$

$$\mathcal{R} : \mathcal{C}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}'}(\mathcal{L} A, B) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(A, \mathcal{R} B)$$

The basis of a vector space.

The free group on a set

$G \mapsto G/[G, G]$ commutator subgroup

Universal enveloping algebra of a Lie Algebra

Completion of a metric space.

D.E. Rydeheard + R.M. Burstall

Computational Category Theory, Prentice-Hall 1988

Tatsuya Hagino, Ph.D. Edinburgh University 1987

R.F.C. Walters, Categories and Computer Science

Cambridge 1991

"Magma" Computational algebra system, U. Sydney.


"Charity" Robin Cockett et al. U. of Calgary

Scientific & Engineering C++ Barton & Nackman
1994

Why can't we program this way?

What type should represent a category?

It should include the following as special cases:

Objects	Morphisms
Sets	functions
integers	$n \times m$ matrices
points in a topological space	 smooth paths in the space modulo homotopy
elements of a preorder	$p \leq q$
categories	functors
functors	natural transformations
$A \xrightarrow{f} B$	$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ \alpha \downarrow & & \downarrow \beta \\ A' & \xrightarrow{f'} & B' \end{array}$ where the diagram commutes
+ many more	

Aldor

Offshoot of **AXIOM** by **Stephen Watt** and collaborators. Now under development at **N.A.G.**

Domains (\cong Classes in OO languages) are first class objects - may be created by functions, passed as parameters etc.

Domains have types called **Categories** which are also first class.

Group: Category == with


$1 : \%$

$* : (\%, \%) \rightarrow \%$

$inv : \% \rightarrow \%$

m.b. an Aldor category is not the same as a mathematical category

Parametric Polymorphism + Dependent Types + Curried functions


 $commutator(R: Ring)(x: R, y: R): R$
 $== x * y - y * x$

The syntax is made to resemble mathematics:

$A : \text{Abelian Group} == \text{Integer add}$

$f : A \rightarrow A == (a : A) : A \mapsto a + a$

The type system is uniform:

$i : \text{Integer} == 5$

$\text{extend Integer : with Group} == \text{add}$

even

$\rightarrow : \text{Tuple Type} \rightarrow \text{Tuple Type} \quad !$

Compiles to C, machine independent "FOAM"
or Lisp. Heavily optimized.

Many Styles are Possible

Objects Morphs.	Type	Category	%
→			
$\text{Hom}(A, B)$			
%			

+ Choices for

Functor

Natural transformation

Adjoint

One style as an example:

Objects in a particular category are the collection of domains satisfying some $\text{Obj} : \text{Category}$.

Morphisms from $A : \text{Obj}$ to $B : \text{Obj}$ are objects satisfying $A \rightarrow B$. Properties of the morphisms are implicit as with the associativity of $*$ in group.

Math Category ($\text{Obj} : \text{Category}$) : $\text{Category} ==$ with

$\text{id} : (A : \text{Obj}) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow A)$

$\text{compose} : (A : \text{Obj}, B : \text{Obj}, C : \text{Obj}) \rightarrow$

$(A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C) \rightarrow (A \rightarrow C)$

default

$\text{id} (A : \text{Obj}) : (A \rightarrow A) == (a : A) : A \mapsto a$

$\text{compose} (A : \text{Obj}, B : \text{Obj}, C : \text{Obj}) (f : A \rightarrow B, g : B \rightarrow C) : (A \rightarrow C)$
 $== (a : A) : C \mapsto g(f(a))$

Functors from $\text{Obj } A$ to $\text{Obj } B$ are domain constructors like

$$\text{Left} : \text{Obj } A \rightarrow \text{Obj } B$$

where the action of Left on morphisms is fixed by a suitable domain satisfying

$$\text{Right Adjoint } (\text{Obj } A : \text{Category}, \\ \text{Obj } B : \text{Category}, \\ \text{Left} : \text{Obj } A \rightarrow \text{Obj } B)$$

$$\begin{matrix} <<: \\ >>: \end{matrix} \left. \vphantom{\begin{matrix} <<: \\ >>: \end{matrix}} \right\} \text{Hom}(\text{Left } A, B) \cong \text{Hom}(A, \text{Right } B)$$

default

~~left~~:

$$\text{left} : (A : \text{Obj } A, B : \text{Obj } A, f : A \rightarrow B)$$

$$\rightarrow (\text{Left } A \rightarrow \text{Left } B)$$

$$= \dots$$

Composition, Identities, Functor actions on morphisms are all supplied by default.

```
#include "base.as"
```

```
define Grp:Category == Monoid with  
  inv: % -> %
```

← Group definition

```
Forget(G:Grp):Set == G
```

← Forgetful functor

```
FreeGroup(S:Set):Grp == add
```

← Free Group

```
FreeGroup:FreeConstruction(Set,Grp,Forget) == add
```

```
GroupCategory: MathCategory Grp with  
  Product Grp with -  
  CoProduct Grp with -  
  Final Grp with -  
  Initial Grp  
== add
```

←
The category of
Groups

```
"grp.as", line 11: FreeGroup:FreeConstruction(Set,Grp,Forget) == add
.....^
[L11 C47] #1 (Error) The domain is missing some exports.
Missing >>: (A: Set, B: Grp, Left(A) -> B) -> A -> Forget(B)
Missing <<: (A: Set, B: Grp, A -> Forget(B)) -> Left(A) -> B
Missing Left: Set -> Grp
```

```
"groupdemo.as", line 18: == add
.....^
[L18 C4] #2 (Error) The domain is missing some exports.
Missing Product: (A: Grp, B: Grp) -> (AB: Grp, AB -> A, AB -> B, (X: Grp
) -> (X -> A, X -> B) -> X -> AB)
Missing CoProduct: (A: Grp, B: Grp) -> (AB: Grp, A -> AB, B -> AB, (X: G
rp) -> (A -> X, B -> X) -> AB -> X)
Missing 1: Grp
Missing 1: (A: Grp) -> A -> 1
Missing 0: Grp
Missing 0: (A: Grp) -> 0 -> A
```



```

#include "base.as"

#library lMonoids      "Monoids.ao"
#library lSets         "Sets.ao"

import from lMonoids,lSets

define Grp:Category == Monoids with
  inv: % -> %

Forget(G:Grp):Set == G add

FreeGroup(A:Set):Grp == add
  Rep == List Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean); import from Rep,SingleInteger
  (t:TextWriter)<<(x:%):TextWriter ==
    (w:TextWriter)**(r:Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean)):TextWriter ==
      r.inv => t << r.dom << ""
      t << r.dom
  l:List Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean) == rep x
  empty? l => t
  for xx:Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean) in l repeat
    t := t ** xx
  t
  l:% == per [ ]
  inv(x:%):% == per [((rep x).i).dom,~((rep x).i).inv]
    for i:SingleInteger in #(rep x)..1 by -1]
  (x:%)=(y:%):Boolean ==
    #(rep x)=#(rep y) => forall? ( (rep x).i = (rep y).i _
      for i:SingleInteger in 1..#(rep x))
    false
  (x:%)*(y:%):% ==
    IRep == Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean); import from IRep
    xl:List IRep == rep x
    yl:List IRep == rep y
    cancel(a:IRep,b:IRep):Boolean == a.dom = b.dom and a.inv ~ b.inv
    mult(l:List IRep,r:List IRep):List IRep ==
      empty? l => r
      empty? r => l; S ==> SingleInteger; import from S
      if cancel(last l,first r) then
        { mult([l.i for i:S in 1..(#l)-1],[r.i for i:S in 2..#r]) }
      else { concat(l,r) }
    per mult(xl,yl)

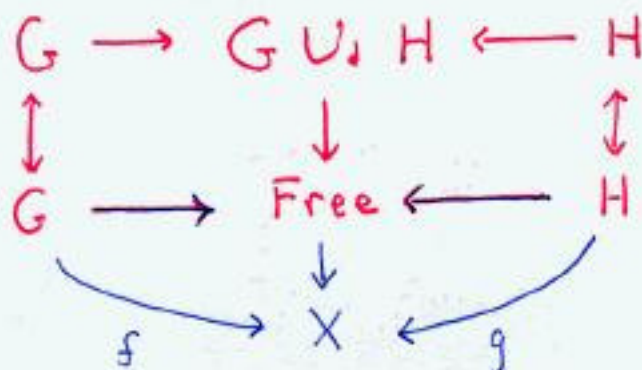
+++
+++ Free construction adjoint
+++
FreeGroup:FreeConstruction(Set,Grp,Forget) == add
  Left(A:Set):Grp == FreeGroup(A) add
  <<(A:Set,B:Grp,f:A->Forget B):(Left A->B) ==
    F(a:Left A):B ==
      RepG == List Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean); import from RepG
      l:List B == [(f (x.dom)) pretend B for x in (a pretend RepG)]
      monoidProduct l
    F
  >>(A:Set,B:Grp,f:Left A -> B):(A->Forget B) ==
    F(a:A):Forget B ==
      RepG == List Record(dom:A,inv:Boolean); import from RepG
      aa:Left A == [a,true] pretend Left A
      (f aa) pretend Forget B

```

```

+++
+++ The Category of Grps
+++
GroupCategory:MathCategory Grp -
  with      Initial Grp -
  with      Final Grp -
  with      Product Grp -
  with      CoProduct Grp -
== add
---
--- In the category of Grp, the trivial group {1} is both initial and final.
---
1:Grp == (1$MonoidCategory) add { inv(x:%):% == x }
1(A:Grp):(A->1) == {a:A}:1 +-> 1$1
0:Grp == 1 add
0(A:Grp):(0->A) == {z:0}:A +-> 1$A
---
--- The Group Direct Product
---
Product(A:Grp,B:Grp):(AB:Grp,AB->A,AB->B,(X:Grp)->(X->A,X->B)->(X->AB)) ==
  (P:Monoids,pa:P->A,pb:P->B,product:(X:Monoids)->(X->A,X->B)->(X->P)) ==
    (Product$MonoidCategory)(A,B)
extend P: with Grp == P add
  Rep == Record(a:A,b:B); import from Rep
  inv(x:%):% == per [ inv ((rep x).a), inv ((rep x).b) ]
  (P,pa,pb,product)
---
--- The sum of Grp A and B is the free group on the
--- disjoint union of G and H as Sets.
---
CoProduct(A:Grp,B:Grp):(AB:Grp,A->AB,B->AB,(X:Grp)->(A->X,B->X)->(AB->X)) ==
  (S:Set,ia:A->S,ib:B->S,coproduct) == (CoProduct$SetCategory)(A,B)
import from FreeGroup
SG:Grp == FreeGroup A
u:S->SG == unit(S) pretend (S->SG)
coproduct2(X:Grp)(f:A->X,g:B->X):SG->X ==
  ff:S->Forget X == coproduct(X)(f,g) pretend (S->Forget X)
  (<<(S,X,ff)) pretend (SG->X)
import from o(Set,A,S,SG),o(Set,B,S,SG)
(SG,u**ia,u**ib,coproduct2)

```




```

Freyd (ObjA:Category, CatA:MathCategory ObjA,
      ObjB:Category, Left:ObjA->ObjB,
      Ad:RigthAdjoint (ObjA, ObjB, Left)) :
      MathCategory ObjB with
  if CatA has Initial ObjA then Initial ObjB
  if CatA has CoProduct ObjA then CoProduct ObjB
  if CatA has CoEqualizer ObjA then CoEqualizer ObjB
  if CatA has Pushforward ObjA then Pushforward ObjB
== add
  ...

```

Adjoint functors theorem:

Right adjoint functors preserve limits

Left adjoint functors preserve colimits

What's at the bottom of the library?

Set plays a special role because $\text{Hom}(A, B)$ must be a set for associativity to be defined.

Set: Category == with
=: $(\%, \%) \rightarrow \text{Boolean}$

Set Category: Math Category	Set	with
Final	Set	with
Initial	Set	with
Product	set	with
CoProduct	Set	with

...but these may not be sets because there can be duplicates.

\Rightarrow Redefine what a "Set" means.

Domain: Category == with { }

Domain Category: Math Category Domain with
...

Axiom: Domain is a category
with Initial / Final / Product / Coproduct
objects.

- Model of Computation
- Don't have to worry about pre-Set theory axioms.
- Contains all needed "data structures"
- Sets come from free construction on Domain with pointer equality
- Natural bottom of the library. "The thing with all structure removed."

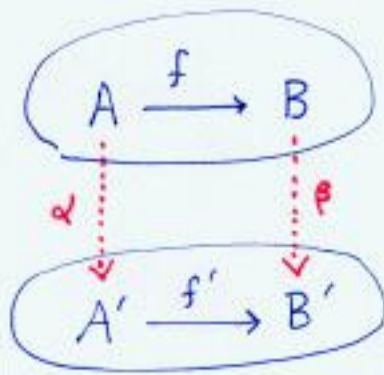
Recursive Arrow Categories

```
Arrow(Obj:Category):Category == with  
  domain:  Obj  
  codomain: Obj  
  put: (domain,codomain) -> %  
  get: % -> (domain,codomain)
```

```
Id(Obj:Category):Category == with  
  id: (A:Obj)->(A->A)  
  default  
    id(a:A):(A->A) == (a:A):A +-> a
```

```
Compose(Obj:Category):Category == with  
  compose: (A:Obj,B:Obj,C:Obj) -> (A->B,B->C) -> (A->C)  
  default  
    compose(A:Obj,B:Obj,C:Obj) (f:A->B,g:B->C):(A->C) ==  
      (a:A):C +-> g f a
```

```
MathCategory(Obj:Category):Category == Id Obj with Compose Obj  
with MathCategory Arrow Obj
```



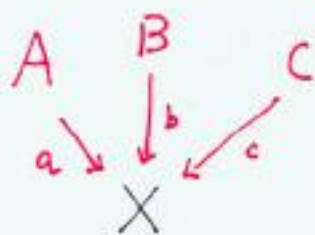
Slice Categories e.g. Fiber Bundles

$\text{Slice}(\text{Obj} : \text{Category}, X : \text{Obj}) : \text{Category} == \text{with}$
 $\text{slice} : \% \rightarrow X$

$\text{SliceCategory}(\text{Obj} : \text{Category}, X : \text{Obj}) :$
Math Category $\text{Slice}(\text{Obj}, X)$ with
Final $\text{Slice}(\text{Obj}, X) == \text{add}$

$1 : \text{Slice}(\text{Obj}, X) == \text{add}$
 $\text{Rep} == X ; \text{import from Rep}$
 $\text{slice} : \% \rightarrow X == (x : X) : X \rightarrow \text{rep } x$

$1(A : \text{Slice}(\text{Obj}, X)) : (A \rightarrow 1) ==$
 $(a : A) : 1 \rightarrow \text{slice } a \text{ pretend } 1$



Skeletal Categories

Skeletal Categories (P: Preorder):

MathCategory Category P with

hom: (A: Category P, B: Category P) →
List A → B

== add

hom(A: Category P, B: Category P): List A → B ==

input from P

if (value \$ A) <= (value \$ B) then

[(a: A): B + → never]

else

[]

Category(T: Type): Category == with

value: T

IntC: MathCategory Category Integer

== SkeletalCategory Integer

1 ≤ 2 2 ≤ 5 ⇒ 1 ≤ 5

Limits

SI ==> SingleInteger

```
(Obj:Category)^(n:SI):Category == with  
  dom: Tuple Obj  
  put: dom -> %  
  get: % -> dom
```

```
nTuple(Obj:Category,t:Tuple Obj):Obj^(length t) == add  
  dom: Tuple Obj == t  
  Rep == Record t  
  put(x:dom):% == per [x]  
  get(x:%):dom == explode rep x
```

```
Diagonal(Obj:Category,n:SI)(X:Obj):(Obj^n) ==  
  nTuple (Obj,(X for i:SI in 1..n)) pretend Obj^n
```

```
Product(Obj:Category,n:SI):Category ==  
  RightAdjoint(Obj ,Obj^n,Diagonal(Obj,n)) with  
CoProduct(Obj:Category,n:SI):Category ==  
  LeftAdjoint(Obj^n,Obj ,Diagonal(Obj,n)) with
```

Product is the right adjoint of the
diagonal functor

$$\Delta: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}^n$$

CoProduct is the left adjoint of Δ .

Summary

Category theory does seem to fit in Aldor.

"Parametric polymorphism", dependent types, curried functions are essential for this.

We seem to be able to absorb theorems into the system - ideally as category defaults.

There are some limitations due to the requirement that domains be determined at compile time.

Hom vs " \rightarrow " styles depends a bit on current work at N.A.G. Hom style is needed for Homotopy and other applications.

The category of Domains provides a model of computation.

$$X \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} f \\ f_\wedge \\ f_\vee \end{pmatrix}} Y \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} g \\ g_\wedge \\ g_\vee \end{pmatrix}} Z$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} g \circ f \\ f_\wedge \circ g_\wedge \\ f_\vee \circ g_\vee \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f(f_\wedge(y)) \leq y$$

$$f(f_\vee(y)) \geq y$$

